

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, PO

SUBJ: APPOINTMENTS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS FOR GOP MINISTER OF
FINANCE

REFS: (A) LISBON 3856; (B) LISBON 3686

1. MINISTER OF FINANCE, DR. SILVA LOPES, HAS REQUESTED
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS HE MIGHT PROFITABLY
MAKE WITH U.S. OFFICIALS WHILE ATTENDING IMF/IBRD
MEETINGS AT END OF THIS MONTH. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED
WHETHER WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO SEE
AZORES BASE NEGOTIATORS. DR. LOPES INTENDS TO STAY FOR
THE FULL SESSION OF THE IMF/IBRD, ARRIVING SEPTEMBER 28
AND DEPARTING ON OCTOBER 4 OR 5 FOR NEW YORK, WHERE
HE WILL STAY UNTIL OCTOBER 8.

2. DR. LOPES, WHO IS ALSO REQUESTING ADVICE ABOUT
APPOINTMENTS FROM PORTUGUESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, SAID
HE HAD RECEIVED NUMEROUS INVITATIONS FROM COMMERCIAL
BANKS BUT COULD NOT POSSIBLY HONOR ALL OF THEM.

3. AMBASSADOR KENNEDY, FORMER SECRETARY OF TREASURY,
CALLED ON DR. LOPES IN LISBON LAST MONTH AND SAID THAT
HE HOPED TO SEE THE MINISTER IN WASHINGTON DURING THE
IMF/IBRD MEETINGS. AMBASSADOR KENNEDY ALSO SAID THAT
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DR. LOPES SHOULD CALL ON HIGH LEVEL TREASURY OFFICIALS.

4. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE DR. LOPES WILL BE ONLY THE SECOND CABINET-RANK PORTUGUESE OFFICIAL EXCEPT FOR FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES TO VISIT WASHINGTON SINCE APRIL 25. FROM THE GENERAL POINT OF VIEW OF USG-GOP RELATIONS, WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT HE RECEIVE A WARM AND HELPFUL RECEPTION. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT AS ONE OF THE FEW THOROUGHLY COMPETENT ECONOMISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT, HIS INFLUENCE ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN PORTUGAL IS GREAT. HE IS, FURTHERMORE, AN INTERNATIONALIST WHO WISHES TO ENCOURAGE PORTUGAL'S TIES WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THE DEMANDS ON U.S. OFFICIALS ARE GREAT DURING THE IMF/IBRD SESSIONS, WE RECOMMEND CALLS ON THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS AS BEING APPROPRIATE:

A. TREASURY - SECRETARY SIMON FOR AT LEAST A COURTESY VISIT. THE SECRETARY COULD INTRODUCE DR. LOPES TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND, GIVEN DR. LOPES' INTEREST IN TAX REFORM (SEE REF A), TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TAX POLICY.

B. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK - PRESIDENT CASEY AND VICE PRESIDENT SAUER (BOTH HAVE IN PAST HAD FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF PORTUGAL).

C. STATE DEPARTMENT - COURTESY VISIT TO DEPUTY SECRETARY OR TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. GIVEN DR. LOPES' UNDOUBTED INVOLVEMENT IN FORMULATION OF GOP'S AZORES PACKAGE, A SESSION WITH AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY COULD BE INFORMATIVE FOR OUR SIDE.

D. AMBASSADOR KENNEDY - AMBASSADOR KENNEDY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN MEETING DR. LOPES IN WASHINGTON (SEE PARA 3 ABOVE).

5. ACTION REQUESTED: TO BE MOST HELPFUL, OUR RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO DR. LOPES WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS BEFORE HE MAKES OTHER COMMITMENTS. WE THEREFORE REQUEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS AND AVAILABLE DATES AND TIMES SATISFACTORY TO U.S. OFFICIALS CONCERNED. DEPARTMENT MAY FIND IT HELPFUL TO GET IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR KENNEDY, WHO MAY HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF HIS OWN.

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